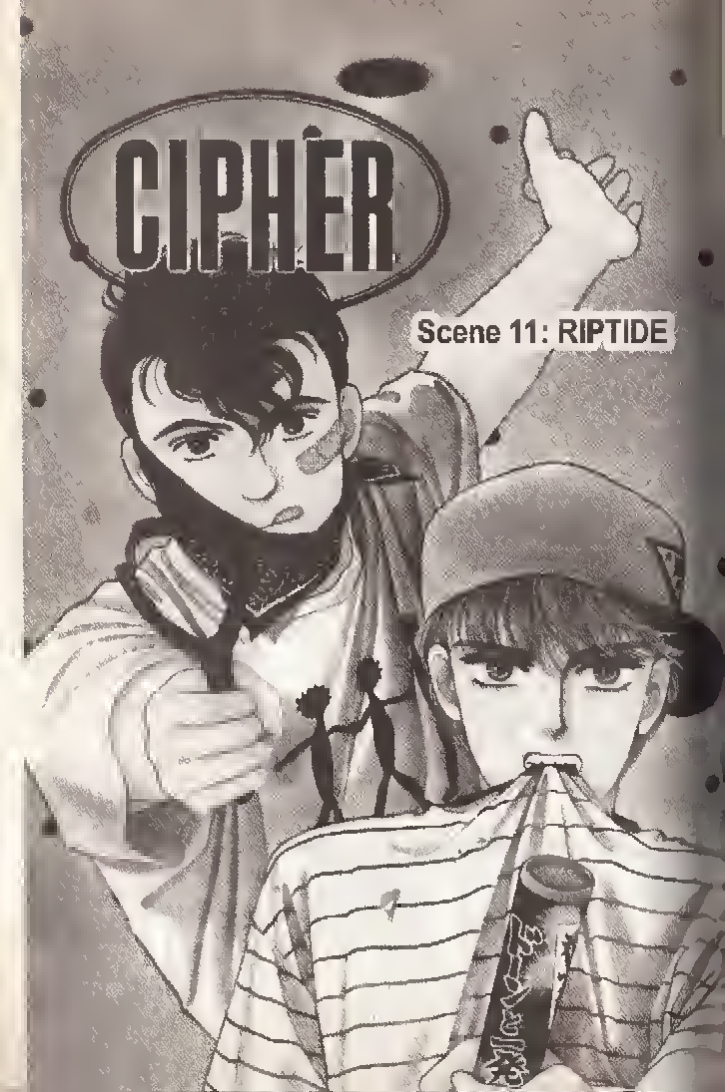
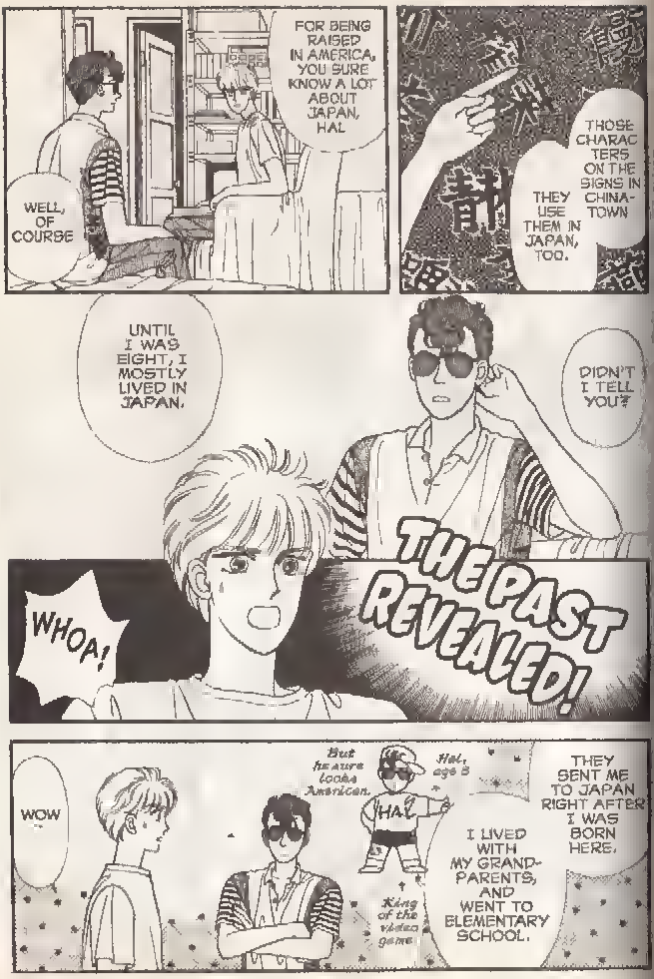
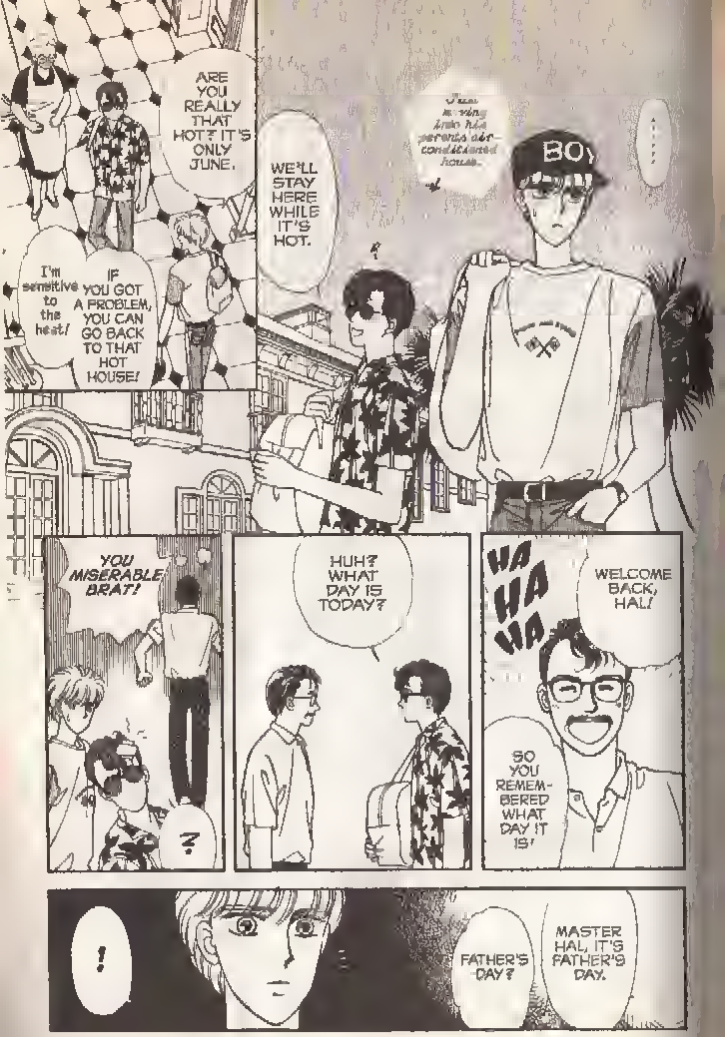

CIPHER
Scene 11: RIPTIDE

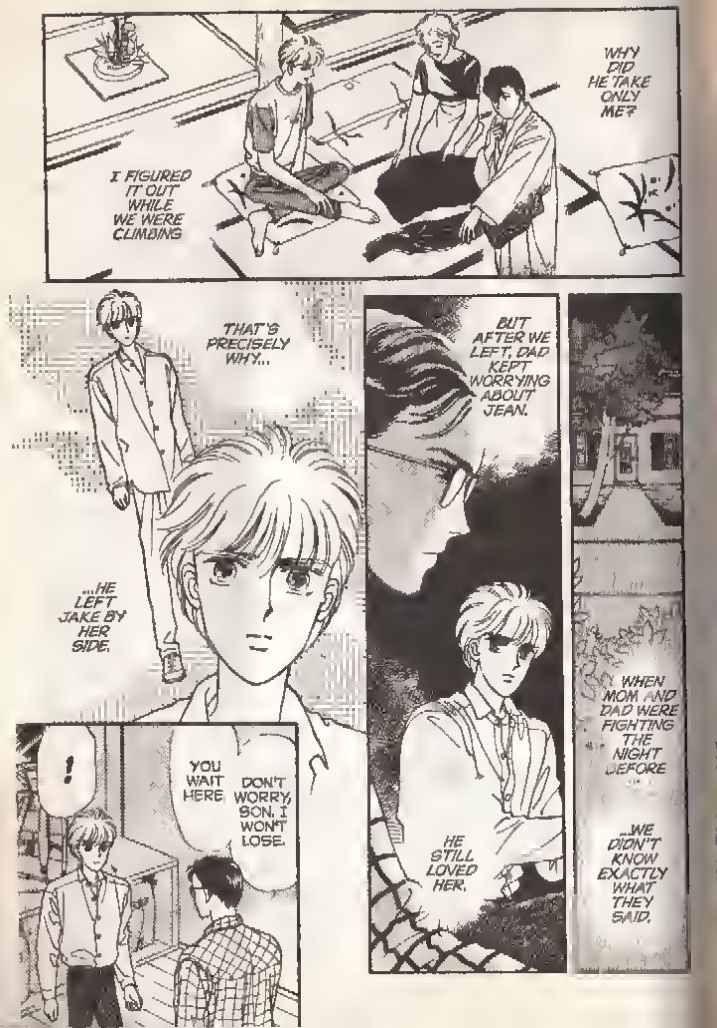
暑い
(TRANS.: "IT'S TOO HOT!")
WHAT ARE KANJI?
THEY'RE MAKING IT EVEN MORE HOT!
GET THESE KANJI OUTTA HERE!


FOR BEING RAISED IN AMERICA, YOU SURE KNOW A LOT ABOUT JAPAN, HAL
WELL, OF COURSE
THOSE CHARACTERS ON THE SIGNS IN CHINATOWN
THEY USE THEM IN JAPAN, TOO.
UNTIL I WAS EIGHT, I MOSTLY LIVED IN JAPAN.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
WHOA!
THE PAST REVEALED!
WOW
But he sure looks American.
Hal, age 8
HAL
King of the video game
I LIVED WITH MY GRANDPARENTS, AND WENT TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
THEY SENT ME TO JAPAN RIGHT AFTER I WAS BORN HERE.

NAH, I GUESS AMERICA IS BETTER.
LOTS OF SUMMER HOME WORK
?
MOSQUITO COILS
SHAVED ICE
PUBLIC POOLS
SUMIDA RIVER
FIREWORKS
NIGHT BASEBALL
SUMMERS IN JAPAN WERE AWESOME! VERY ELEGANT.
.....
THE ONE THING I CAN'T STAND IS THIS HEAT!
WE'VE GOTTA GO SOMEWHERE, ROY!
GO SOME-WHERE?!
BUT I'VE GOT WORK TO DO HERE!
SO DO I. DON'T WORRY.


ARE YOU REALLY THAT HOT? IT'S ONLY JUNE.
I'm sensitive to the heat!
IF YOU GOT A PROBLEM, YOU CAN GO BACK TO THAT HOT HOUSE!
WE'LL STAY HERE WHILE IT'S HOT.
Jun is living with his parents' air-conditioned house.
BOY
YOU MISERABLE BRAT!
?
HUH? WHAT DAY IS TODAY?
HA HA HA
WELCOME BACK, HAL!
SO YOU REMEMBERED WHAT DAY IT IS!
!
FATHER'S DAY?
MASTER HAL, IT'S FATHER'S DAY.

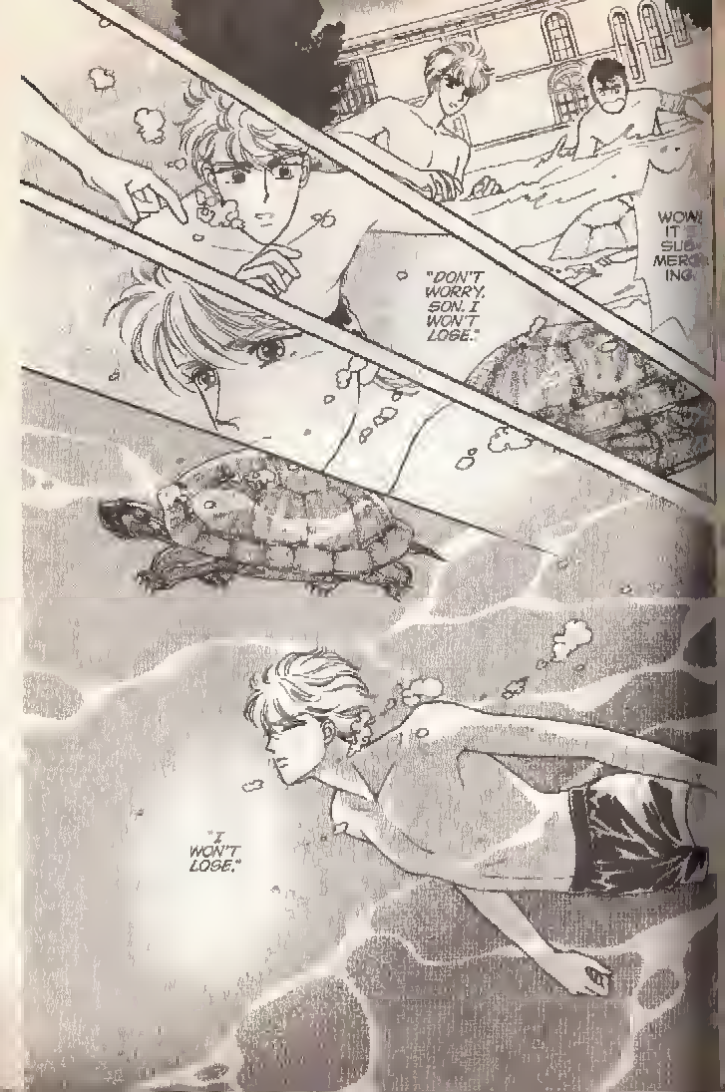
NO NEED.
MY FATHER IS DEAD.
I GUESS YOU'D BETTER CALL HOME, TOO.
THAT'S IT? THAT'S WHAT HE'S SO MAD ABOUT?
IT'S OKAY.
UH. SORRY, I...
OH!
Hal, come here.
"COME WITH ME, ROY.
I WAS WITH HIM WHEN IT HAPPENED.
OH... YEAH...I REMEMBER SEEING IT ON THE NEWS.
THAT THING IN THE MOUNTAINS!
"COME TO THE MOUNTAINS WITH ME."

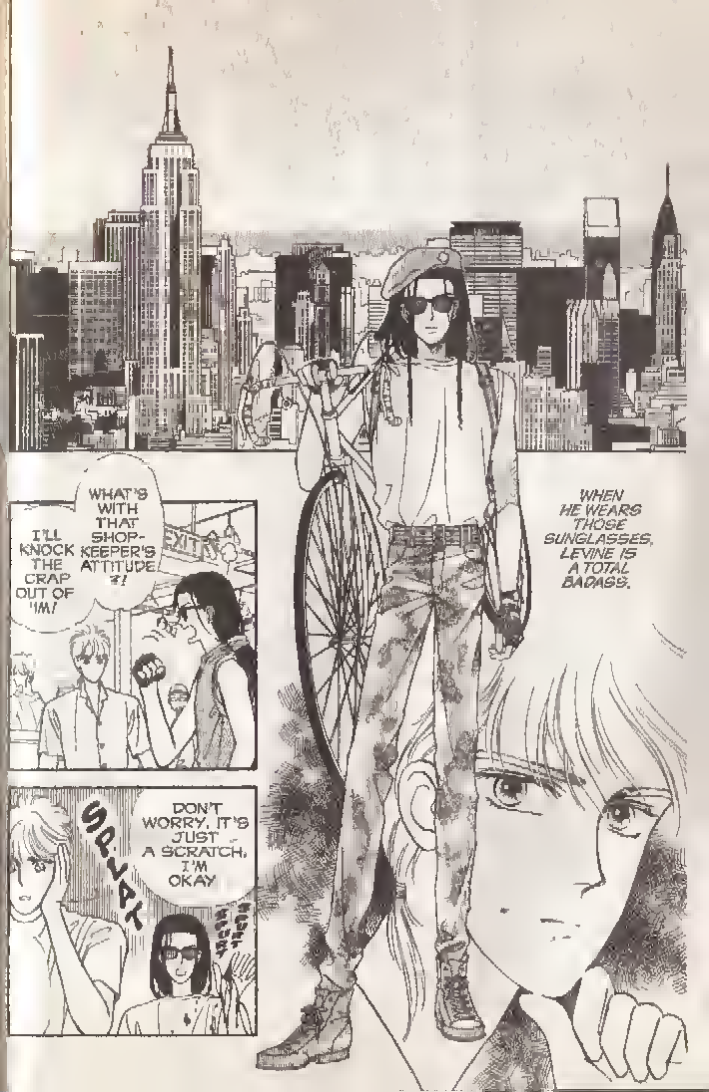

I FIGURED IT OUT WHILE WE WERE CLIMBING
WHY DID HE TAKE ONLY ME?
THAT'S PRECISELY WHY...
...HE LEFT JAKE BY HER SIDE.
BUT AFTER WE LEFT, DAD KEPT WORRYING ABOUT JEAN.
HE STILL LOVED HER.
WHEN MOM AND DAD WERE FIGHTING THE NIGHT BEFORE
...WE DIDN'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY SAID.
!
YOU WAIT HERE.
DON'T WORRY, SON. I WON'T LOSE.

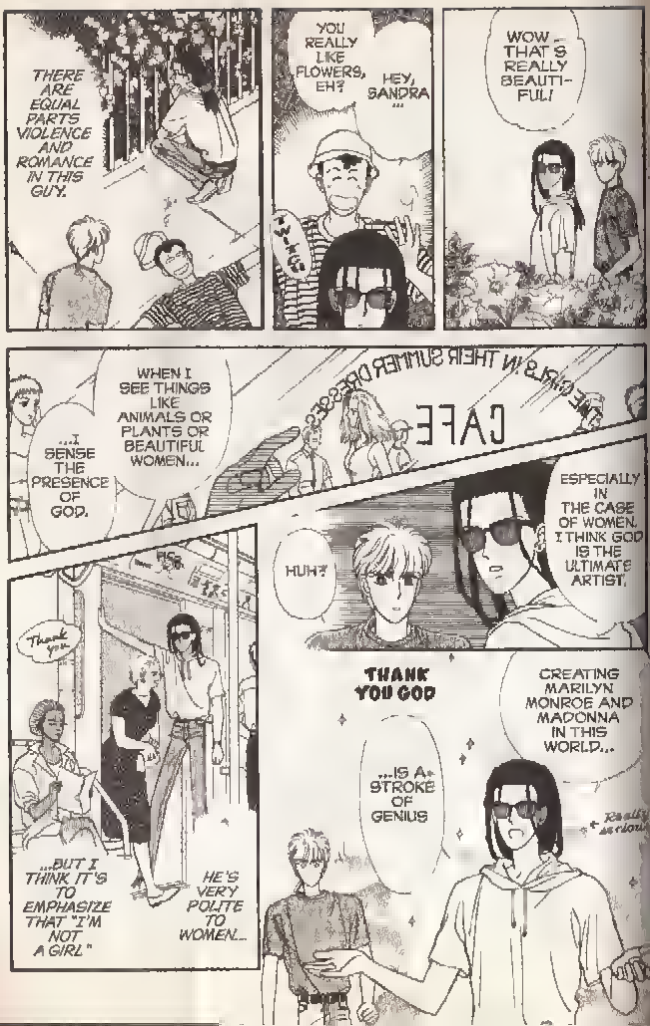
I WANTED TO STOP HIM.
UH...
BUT
WHAT WOULD JAKE DO?
WHAT WOULD HE...
I UNDERSTAND, DAD.
WAIT.
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU BEING SO QUIET FOR?

IF I HAD HELD HIM BACK, HE'D BE ALIVE.
EVEN THOUGH I'D ALWAYS FELT THAT..
...I STILL BLAMED EVERYTHING ON JEAN.
JUST REMEMBERING SOMETHING.
ABOUT MY DAD.
YES. SHE MUST HAVE SUFFERED.
JUST LIKE I AM NOW!
JEAN ALSO SUFFERED, DIDN'T SHE?
TH... THANKS.
C'MON, EAT.
TRY THE AZUKI BEANS.

HOW ABOUT WE GO FOR A SWIM?
CHEER UP, DUDE!
JEAN... WHAT IS SHE DOING NOW?
TURTLE ?!
LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT!
COOL!
YOUR FATHER GOT IT ON A BUSINESS TRIP.
MOM, CAN WE USE THE POOL?
NOW? THE TURTLE IS IN THERE.
IT'S A REAL TURTLE!
IT'S HUGE!


WOW! IT'S SUDDEN MERGING.
"DON'T WORRY, SON. I WON'T LOSE."
"I WON'T LOSE."

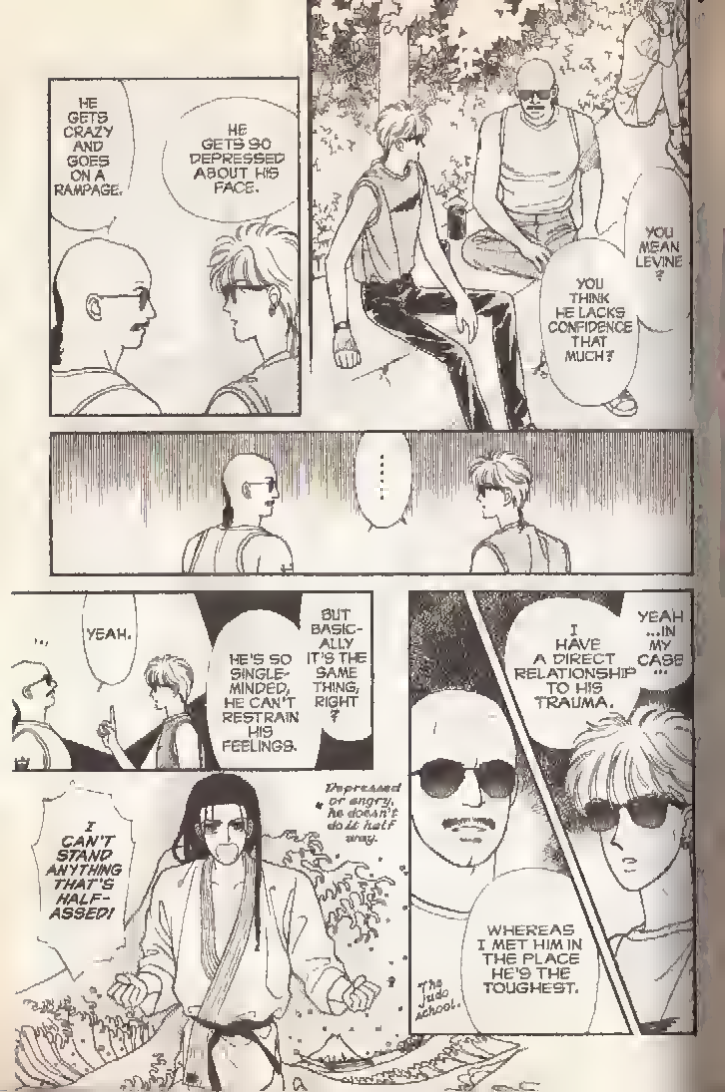

WHEN HE WEARS THOSE SUNGLASSES, LEVINE IS A TOTAL BADASS.
WHAT'S WITH THAT SHOP-KEEPER'S ATTITUDE?!
I'LL KNOCK THE CRAP OUT OF 'IM!
EXIT
DON'T WORRY, IT'S JUST A SCRATCH. I'M OKAY
SQUIRT
SQUIRT

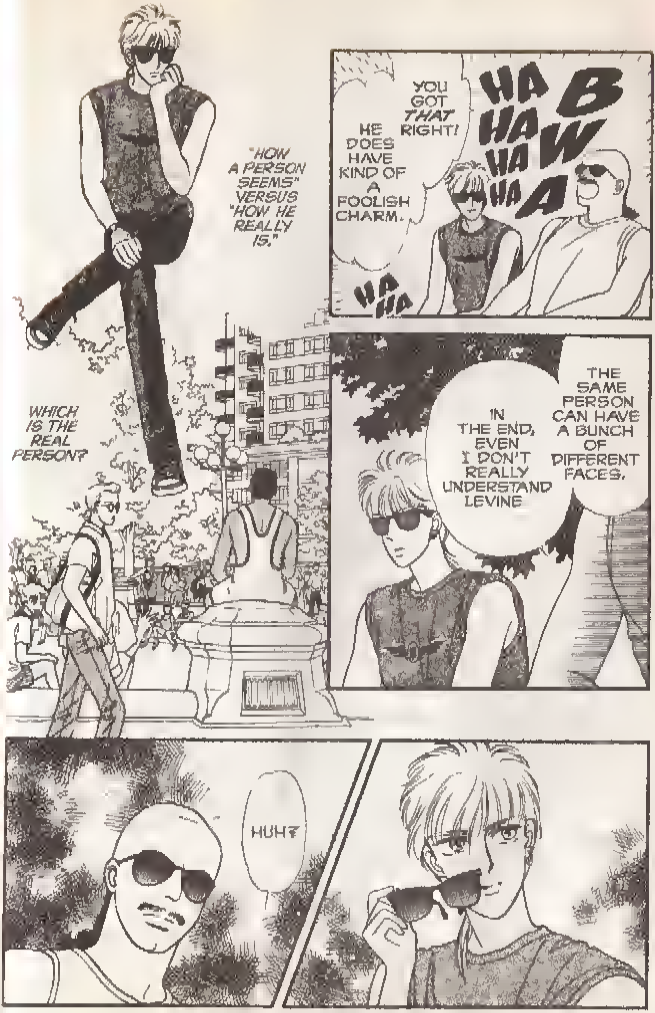

THERE ARE EQUAL PARTS VIOLENCE AND ROMANCE IN THIS GUY.
YOU REALLY LIKE FLOWERS, EH?
HEY, SANDRA ...
WOW... THAT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL!
CAFE
WHEN I SEE THINGS LIKE ANIMALS OR PLANTS OR BEAUTIFUL WOMEN...
...I SENSE THE PRESENCE OF GOD.
ESPECIALLY IN THE CASE OF WOMEN. I THINK GOD IS THE ULTIMATE ARTIST.
HUH?
Thank you.
...BUT I THINK IT'S TO EMPHASIZE THAT "I'M NOT A GIRL"
HE'S VERY POLITE TO WOMEN...
THANK YOU GOD
CREATING MARILYN MONROE AND MADONNA IN THIS WORLD...
...IS A STROKE OF GENIUS
Really serious

Is that a guy?
Cute
TURN
SLT
THE REASON WHY I KNOW IS THAT WHEN HE LOSES THE SUNGLASSES...
Gimme those
Hm?
TAKE IT AWAY AND HE'S POWERLESS
FLUTTER FLUTTER
WILL YOU QUIT ACTING LIKE AN IDIOT, PLEASE?
IT'S LIKE YOUR SECRET WEAPON
HE'S GOT A HUGE COMPLEX ABOUT THAT BEAUTIFUL FACE.
HURRY UP AND GIMME THOSE SUN-GLASSES BACK!

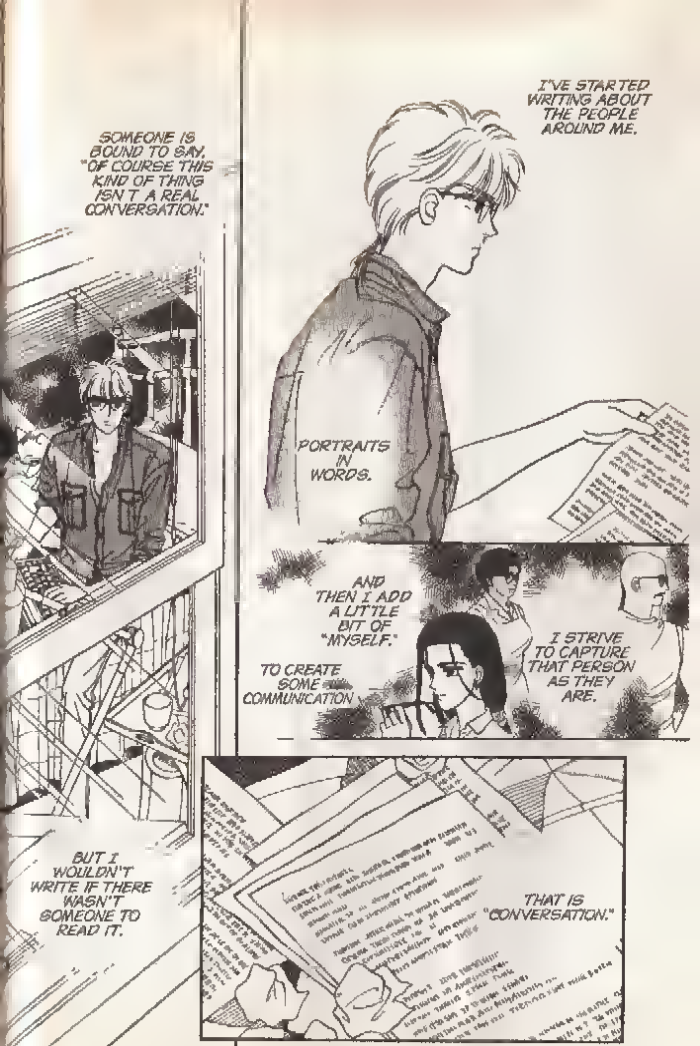
THE GUYS IN HIS JUDO CLUB STILL SELL PICTURES OF HIM BEHIND IS BACK.
I get photos of the recent tournament.
Mark the ones you want.
Man! If only he weren't a guy!
I'll buy the ones of Levine T
THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM, WE ARGUED OVER WHETHER IT WAS A GUY OR A GIRL
IDIOT
GASP
HUH?
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU GUYS UP TO?!
NO, NO... THAT'S JUST ...
Uh.
HEY, DON'T PUNCH THE WALL AGAIN.
EVERY-ONE'S HIDING THINGS FROM ME.
Depressed
LEVINE HASN'T FIGURED IT OUT YET.
NOTHING
NOTHING AT ALL!

I'M HITTING THE BOOKS
I'VE GOT TO INCREASE MY STRONG POINTS.
THEN MAYBE I'LL DEVELOP MORE SELF-CONFIDENCE
HM...
I THINK HE RUNS AWAY BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH CONFIDENCE IN HIMSELF
IT'S NOT THAT HIS STANDARDS FOR HIS FRIENDS ARE TOO HIGH


HE GETS CRAZY AND GOES ON A RAMPAGE.
HE GETS SO DEPRESSED ABOUT HIS FACE.
YOU MEAN LEVINE?
YOU THINK HE LACKS CONFIDENCE THAT MUCH?
.....
YEAH.
HE'S SO SINGLE-MINDED, HE CAN'T RESTRAIN HIS FEELINGS.
BUT BASICALLY IT'S THE SAME THING, RIGHT?
I HAVE A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO HIS TRAUMA.
YEAH ...IN MY CASE ...
WHEREAS I MET HIM IN THE PLACE HE'S THE TOUGHEST.
The Judo School.
I CAN'T STAND ANYTHING THAT'S HALF-ASSED!
Depressed or angry, he doesn't do it half way.


"HOW A PERSON SEEMS" VERSUS "HOW HE REALLY IS."
WHICH IS THE REAL PERSON?
HE DOES HAVE KIND OF A FOOLISH CHARM.
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!
HA HA HA HA
BWA
HA HA
IN THE END, EVEN I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND LEVINE
THE SAME PERSON CAN HAVE A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT FACES.
HUH?

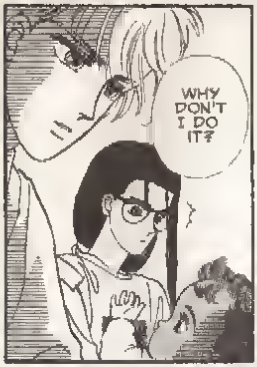
J.B.
WHAT'S YOUR REAL NAME?
TAK TAK TAK
TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK


SOMEONE IS BOUND TO SAY, "OF COURSE THIS KIND OF THING ISN'T A REAL CONVERSATION."
I'VE STARTED WRITING ABOUT THE PEOPLE AROUND ME.
PORTRAITS IN WORDS.
AND THEN I ADD A LITTLE BIT OF "MYSELF."
TO CREATE SOME COMMUNICATION
I STRIVE TO CAPTURE THAT PERSON AS THEY ARE.
BUT I WOULDN'T WRITE IF THERE WASN'T SOMEONE TO READ IT.
THAT IS "CONVERSATION."

I WRITE IMAGINING THAT SOMEDAY, A VOICE WILL RETURN AN ANSWER.
WHUP
YEAH, WELL... THAT'S A LONG WAY OFF YET.
LET ME READ IT WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
WOW. THAT SOUNDS COOL.
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHY.
...BUT IT FEELS SORT OF LIKE I'M WRITING A LOVE LETTER.

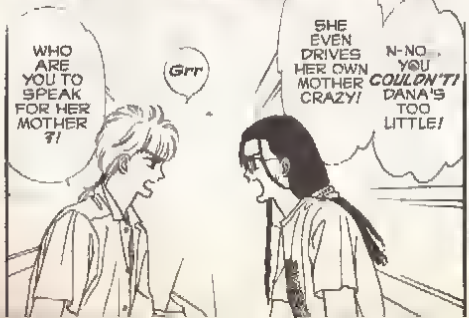
KNOCK KNOCK
GOOD EVENING.
HEY, LEV... YOU HOME?
WHY, JAKE! YOU'RE HERE TOO.
COULD YOU GIVE ME A HAND FOR AN HOUR?
SURE. WHAT IS IT?
I THOUGHT I'D LET YOU BE THE FIRST ONE TO READ IT.
OH...
BLUSH
BLUSH
HE'S SO CUTE WHEN HE'S EMBARRASSED
CUTE
I NEED YOU TO LOOK AFTER MY KIDS.
...

BWAHAHA
BAM
CRASH
WAAH
ACTUALLY, I'D PREFER IT IF THEY DIDN'T.
WELL, IT'S BETTER THAN CHEEP. AT LEAST THEY CAN TALK.

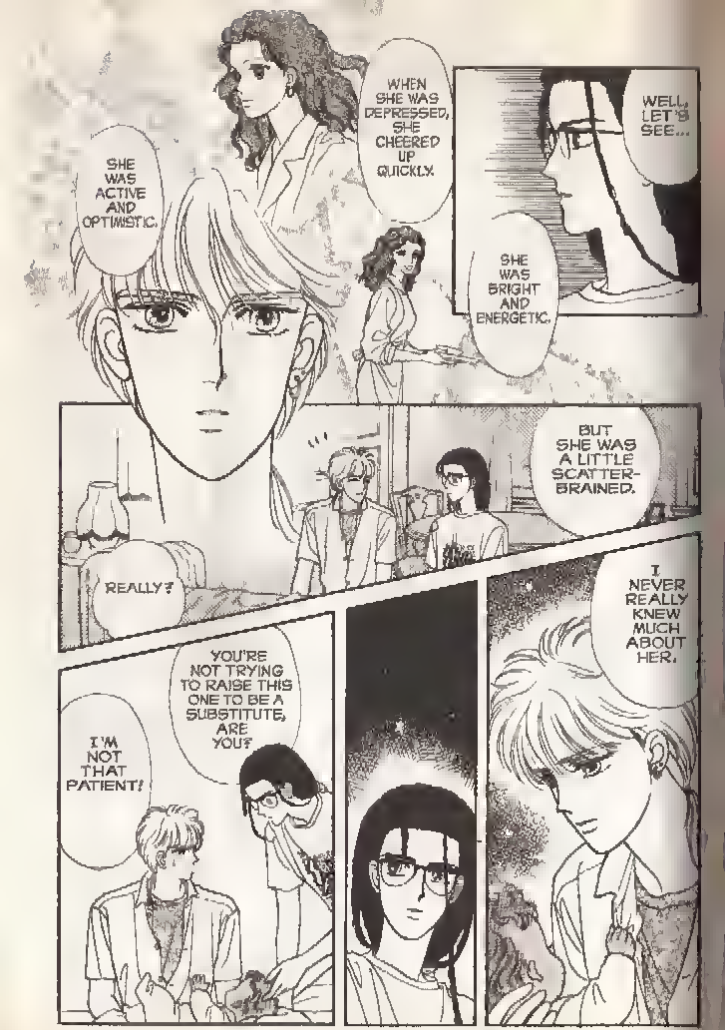

WHY DON'T I DO IT?

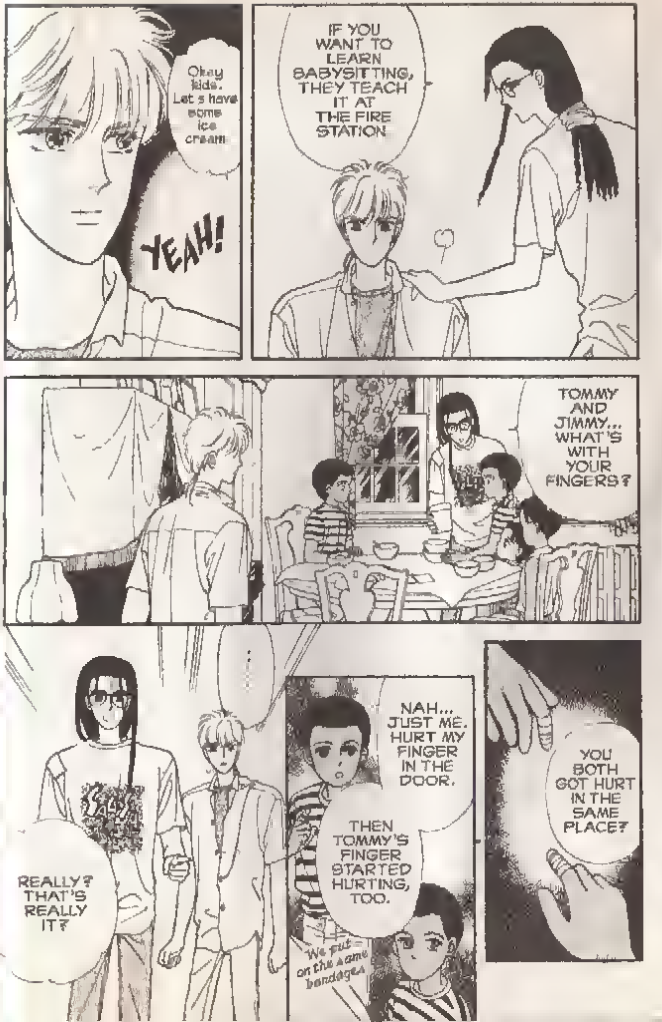
SHE ALSO LOOKED FOR A BABYSITTER SHE COULD USE IN THE AFTERNOONS.
A BABY-SITTER? FOR DANA?

HOW COME EVEN LITTLE DANA IS HERE?
PATTY'S OUT LOOKING FOR A JOB.


WHO ARE YOU TO SPEAK FOR HER MOTHER?!
Grr
SHE EVEN DRIVES HER OWN MOTHER CRAZY!
N-NO, YOU COULDN'T! DANA'S TOO LITTLE!

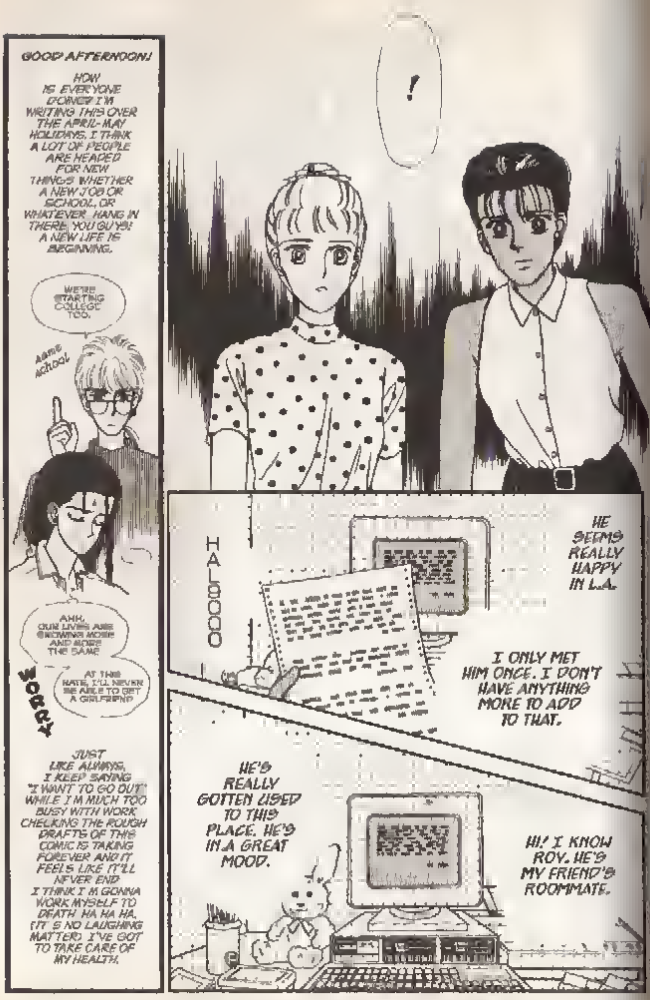
NO... WAIT... AS GOOD A "BABYSITTER." THAT'S WHAT I MEANT! DON'T LOOK SO SHOCKED!
I CAN BE AS GOOD A MOTHER AS HER!
IF THAT THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD CAN GET A SITTER'S LICENSE, THEN SO CAN I!
WAH WAH
I'LL BECOME A GREAT BABYSITTER, AND I'LL COME FOR YOU!
WAIT FOR ME, DANA.
Goo
I MEAN THE OTHER DANA.
UH... WHAT KIND OF PERSON?
WHAT KIND OF PERSON WAS DANA?


WELL, LET'S SEE...
SHE WAS BRIGHT AND ENERGETIC.
WHEN SHE WAS DEPRESSED, SHE CHEERED UP QUICKLY.
SHE WAS ACTIVE AND OPTIMISTIC.
BUT SHE WAS A LITTLE SCATTER-BRAINED.
REALLY?
I NEVER REALLY KNEW MUCH ABOUT HER.
YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO RAISE THIS ONE TO BE A SUBSTITUTE, ARE YOU?
I'M NOT THAT PATIENT!


Okay kids. Let's have some ice cream.
YEAH!
IF YOU WANT TO LEARN BABYSITTING, THEY TEACH IT AT THE FIRE STATION.
TOMMY AND JIMMY... WHAT'S WITH YOUR FINGERS?
YOU BOTH GOT HURT IN THE SAME PLACE?
NAH... JUST ME. HURT MY FINGER IN THE DOOR.
THEN TOMMY'S FINGER STARTED HURTING, TOO.
We put on the same bandage.
REALLY? THAT'S REALLY IT?

I WONDER WHAT HE'S LIKE ALL ALONE.
I GET THE FEELING I DIDN'T KNOW HIM AT ALL.
UP-TIGHT CLUB
I COULD TELL THAT WHEN HE WAS SUFFERING HE WOULDN'T SHOW ME.
YEAH, REALLY.
TOMMY DOESN'T LIE!
I didn't say he was lying.
Heh
THEY'RE JUST LIKE US
ROY...

NOW...
AND NOW...
BEEP


GOOD AFTERNOON!
HOW IS EVERYONE DOING? I'M WRITING THIS OVER THE APRIL-MAY HOLIDAYS. I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE HEADED FOR NEW THINGS WHETHER A NEW JOB OR SCHOOL, OR WHATEVER. HANG IN THERE, YOU GUYS! A NEW LIFE IS BEGINNING.
WE'RE STARTING COLLEGE TOO.
Aaaa school
AHH. OUR LIVES ARE ENCHANGE MORE AND MORE THE SAME
AT THIS RATE, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET A GIRLFRIEND
SORRY
JUST LIKE ALWAYS, I KEEP SAYING "I WANT TO GO OUT" WHILE I'M MUCH TOO BUSY WITH WORK CHECKING THE ROUGH DRAFTS OF THIS COMIC IS TAKING FOREVER AND IT FEELS LIKE IT'LL NEVER END
I THINK I'M GONNA WORK MYSELF TO DEATH. HA HA HA. (IT IS NO LAUGHING MATTER) I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF MY HEALTH.
!
HAL9000
HE SEEMS REALLY HAPPY IN L.A.
I ONLY MET HIM ONCE. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO ADD TO THAT.
HE'S REALLY GOTTEN USED TO THIS PLACE. HE'S IN A GREAT MOOD.
HI! I KNOW ROY. HE'S MY FRIEND'S ROOMMATE.

DOES HE HAVE ANY DESIRE TO COME BACK TO NEW YORK?
MAYBE ...
.....!
DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THIS TO ANISE.
PUSH
PUSH

NO, I WON'T.
NOT A WORD.

# ROY LANG TALKS ABOUT CIPHER

There may be those of you who wouldn't have a clue about who Roy and Jake are but who wouldn't know the Twins, Cipher and Siva? Yes, they're the little twin tots stars whom all American fans likes once adored.

Now they're eighteen and grown up. While Siva has gone to college to pursue his studies leaving behind his accomplishments as an actor, Cipher is making a come back to the spotlight, this time calling himself Roy Lang.

Here you will witness the past and future of Roy Lang the most promising young actor of our times.